

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: AN UNUSUAL AND USEFUL DEFENSE OF U.S./NATO BASES ON CRETE

1. A REMARKABLE DEFENSE OF THE U.S. AND NATO FACILITIES ON CRETE WAS PUBLISHED FROM JULY 1-3 IN THE ATHENS DAILY TO VIMA.
2. A LIBERAL OPPOSITION PAPER AND THE CLOSEST THING IN GREECE TO LE MONDE, TO VIMA HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT AND, BECAUSE IT IS READ BY MANY OF GREECE'S OPINION LEADERS, EFFECTIVE ASSAILANTS OF THE U.S.-GREEK MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. SO THE APPEARANCE OF THESE ARTICLES IS DOUBLY NOTEWORTHY.
3. THE THREE LENGTHY ARTICLES, WRITTEN BY RETIRED ARMY LT. GENERAL CHRISTOS TSEPAPEDAKIS, SET OUT TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT IT IS IN GREECE'S INTEREST TO ALLOW THE BASES TO EXIST ON GREEK TERRITORY. GENERAL TSEPAPEDAKIS' ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS A RESOUNDING ENDORSEMENT OF THE VALUE OF THE BASES TO GREECE.
4. IN THE COURSE OF HIS THREE-PART ANALYSIS, GENERAL TSEPAPEDAKIS, WHO IS FROM CRETE AND HAS TIES TO THAT ISLAND'S LIBERAL TRADITION, CONFRONTS WITH REASON AND

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FACTS THE ARGUMENTS AND THE SLOGANS USED AGAINST THE

BASES. AND IN DOING SO HE REVIEWS IN A CAREFUL AND
GENERALLY FACTUAL MANNER THE MISSION OF THE BASES.
THUS, OVERALL, TSEPAPEDAKIS TELLS HIS READERS THAT THOSE
WHO ATTACK THE BASES ON CRETE ARE UNDERMINING GREEK
SECURITY AND DOING SO EITHER BECAUSE THEY DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE FACTS OR THEY HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE
IN DISTORTING THEM. HIS ARTICLES DEMOLISH THE CASE THAT
HAS BEEN BUILT UP OVER TIME IN THE GREEK MIND BY THOSE
WHO OPPOSE THE U.S. AND NATO PRESENCE IN CRETE AND MORE
BROADLY IN GREECE.

4. COMMENT: WE EXPECT THESE ARTICLES WILL BE VERY
WIDELY READ BY THE PEOPLE OF IMPORTANCE IN GREECE.
(WE KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT TSATSOS HAS READ
THEM AND THAT OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS HAS SET
THEM ASIDE TO READ.) THEIR IMPACT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT
AND HELPFUL ONE.

5. AT ANOTHER LEVEL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FEEL THAT
THE APPEARANCE OF THESE ARTICLES -- AND THE VEHICLE OF
THEIR APPEARANCE -- IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT THE CLIMATE IN
WHICH WE CONDUCT OUR RELATIONS HERE CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.
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